

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROPOSED JOINT STUDY OF NEED FOR COUNSELING,
ORIENTATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING
FACILITIES IN IRAN

REF: STATE 333495, STATE 231916, STATE 219173

1. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION MEETING SCHEDULED OCTOBER 4TH WITH VICE MINISTER SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION DR. BAHMAN PARSA, CHAIRMAN OF GOI DELEGATION AT USIRJC MEETING, AND DR. RAHMAT HAGHDAN, PRESIDENT STATE ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENT AFFIARS.

2. PROPOSE THREE MAIN SUBJECT AREAS FOR JOINT TEAM'S INVESTIGATION: ((1) COUNSELING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES; (2) CULTURAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE OBTAINED PLACEMENT; (3) ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR SAME STUDENTS. THESE SUBJECTS ALREADY MATTER OF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY BOTH SIDES.

3. NEXT STEP IS CONSTITUTION OF TEAM. ONE US MEMBER SHOULD BE SPECIALIST IN COUNSELING AND ORIENTATION. SECOND SHOULD BE EXPERIENCED WITH OPERATION TEFL PROGRAMS BUT NOT NECESSARILY A LINGUIST, SINCE HIS TASK HERE WILL BE TO EVALUATE NEED FOR AND PROSPECTS OF ENHANCED LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITIES, BUT NOT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM. FYI: USIS HAS TWO EXPERIENCED TEFL OFFICERS AT POST: VERNON MURBACH AND FRANCIS SMOLINSKI. WILL URGE GOI NOMINATE TWO PERSONS WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND AND SUFFICIENT STATURE TO GIVE AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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4. EMBASSY DEVELOPING DATA PRELIMINARY TO TEAM'S VISIT: EG.

STATISTICS ON STUDENT VISAS ISSUED, PROJECTED VISA REQUIREMENTS, NUMBERS OF IRANIAN STUDENTS IN US RECEIVING GOI SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE, AFME STATISTICS ON NUMBERS INTERVIEWED, COUNSELED, PLACED.

5. PLAN QUERY GOI RE THEIR EXPECTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THIS NOT SPELLED OUT IN JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH DR. PARSA TWICE MADE POINT THAT GOI WISHES INCLUDE THIS IN PROPOSED STUDY. FYI: AMCONSULATE'S STUDENT VISA OFFICER ESTIMATES THAT SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF THIS YEAR'S 15,000 STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS, HAVING INSUFFICIENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY FOR COLLEGE WORK, PRESENTED I-20'S FROM TWO INSTITUTIONS -- A LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITY AND THE INSTITUTION AT WHICH THEY PLAN BEGIN REGULAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM AFTER COMPLETION LANGUAGE TRAINING. GIVEN THE RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD WHICH ELAPSES BETWEEN STUDENTS' ADMISSION TO AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND THEIR APPLICATION FOR VISAS, THERE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TIME, UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS, TO EFFECT A VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR LANGUAGE ABILITIES BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

6. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT, AT ITS DISCRETION, REVIEW WITH AFME WASHINGTON EXTENT OF SUPPORT PROVIDED THEIR TEHRAN OFFICE; ASCERTAIN WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITY THAT TEHRAN OFFICE MIGHT AUGMENT ITS STAFF, WITH ESTIMATED COSTS THEREOF. ALSO NEED AFME WASHINGTON DATA ON NUBERS COUNSELED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. AND ESTIMATES OF FUTURE COUNSELING AND PLACEMENT NEEDS.

7. RE REFTTEL PARA 6E, SUGGEST CU REVIEW WITH DEPARTMENT INSPECTORS ESP. WILLIAM MORGAN, RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO STUDENT VISA PROCEDURES.

8. ALSO SUGGEST CU REVIEW WITH VISA OFFICE AND INS CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH IMPROPER ISSUANCE OF I-20(REF. 2, 3 & PREVIOUS) AND EFFECT THIS PROBLEM MAY HAVE ON OTHER ASPECTS SUBJECT OF PROPOSED STUDY.
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